

Prangonemor to bring back ‘Shesher Kobita’ for Baishakh celebrations

Renowned theatre troupe Prangonemor will stage its acclaimed adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's *Shesher Kobita* on April 13 and 14 at 7pm, marking Chaitra Sankranti and Pahela Baishakh, at Dr Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium, Bangladesh Mahila Samiti.

Dramatised by Ananta Hira and directed by Nuna Afroz, the production explores the poignant love story of Amit Roy and Labanya Debi. The cast includes Hira, Afroz, Yusuf Russell, and many others.



A MUSICAL EID

Songs that are still making memories

ZAHID AKBAR

A total of six movies were released during Eid-ul-Fitr this year. Among the songs from these films, *Chand Mama* from *Borbaad* and *Konna* from *Jinn 3* have each surpassed 10 million views on YouTube. The two tracks currently top the view count charts and have remained audience favourites since their release.

Beyond these chart-toppers, several other songs from the Eid releases have also been well-received by listeners. Some have made it to YouTube's trending list, while others continue to rack up impressive view counts. Overall, the music from this year's Eid films has generated considerable buzz.

Singers, composers, and lyricists have evidently put in their best effort to offer something fresh and appealing to the audience this year. Interestingly, there has been a noticeable shift in lyrical style, melody, and musical arrangement—something that becomes evident upon listening.

This feature takes a closer look at the current state of songs from the Eid film lineup:

Chand Mama, from *Borbaad* directed by Mehedi Hassan Hridoy, was released on March 28 via the Real Energy Production YouTube channel. The song has been written, composed, and arranged by Pritom Hasan. It has been voiced by Pritom and Dola Rahman and features Shakib Khan and India's Nussrat Jahan in the music video.

In *Jinn 3*, directed by Kamruzzaman Roman, the song

Konna—written by Robiul Islam Jibon and sung by Imran Mahmudul and Dilshad Nahar Kona—was released on March 17. It too has crossed the 10 million view mark. The music video stars Nusraat Faria and Abdun Noor Shajal.

Other notable tracks from *Borbaad* include *Mayabi*, sung by Somnur Monir Konal and Imran, *Didha* by Pritom Hasan, and *Nisshash* by GM Ashraf. Interestingly, *Mohamaya*, a song from the same film that hasn't even been officially released yet, has already gained popularity among listeners. Written by Shomeshwar Oli and composed by Khairul Wasi, the song is performed by Mainul Ahsan Noble.

In *Jongli*, directed by M Raahim, the song *Jonom Jonom*—written and composed by Prince Mahmud and sung by Tahsan and Atiya Anisha—has resonated well with the audience. Other songs from the film include *Bondhugo Shono* by Imran and Kona, and *Jodi Alo Ashto*, sung by Habib Wahid.

The film *Daagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen, features the song *Ektukhani Mon*, written by Sadat Hossain and composed by Sajid Sarkar. It is voiced by Tahsan Rahman and Masha Islam. Another track from the same film, *Niye Jabi Ki*, was written by Badhon, with tune and vocals by Xeler Rahman and music arrangement by Mark Don. Both songs have found a place on the audience's list of favourites.

In the Wajed Ali Sumon directorial *Antaratma*, the song *Eka Aarale*, performed by Nazmun Munira Nancy and Pintu Ghosh, has generated a fairly warm reception from audiences.

‘Borbaad’ leads launch of SK Films’ global distribution wing

Superstar Shakib Khan's production house SK Films has officially launched its international distribution wing, with operations in North America (SK Films USA) and the Gulf (SK Films UAE). The announcement came during a press conference on April 9 in Jackson Heights, New York.

The initiative kicks off with the release of *Borbaad*—slated for April 18 in the US and April 19 in Canada.

After its Eid-ul-Fitr release across 120 theatres in Bangladesh, *Borbaad* garnered interest among expatriates. In its opening week, it will screen in 35 to 40 theatres across major US and Canadian cities.

Directed by Mehedi Hassan Hridoy, the film stars Shakib Khan and Idhika Paul, alongside Misha Sawdagor, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahiduzzaman Selim, and Jisshu Sengupta, among others.



NEWS

No country

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Bangladesh for historical reasons is a very unique relationship. It's very fundamentally a people-to-people connect."

However, Jaishankar went on to say that New Delhi has conveyed concerns over "radicalising tendencies" in Bangladesh at the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in Bangkok last week.

"We have concerns about the rhetoric coming out of people in Bangladesh. We have concerns about the attacks on minorities. I think we were very open about sharing those concerns," he said, responding to a question on what Modi conveyed to Yunus during their first face-to-face interaction in the Thai capital.

Three beaten

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Police yesterday accused several thousand unnamed people in a case filed over the mob killings.

Besides, the tea seller's father-in-law Chan Mia filed another case accusing three people of attempted murder over the assault on locals.

Police arrested a suspect named Sohag in the case.

RICKSHAW PULLER KILLED

Police said a rickshaw puller named Surman Khan, 43, was held captive at a neighbour's house for almost 30 hours and tortured to death in Kusthia's GK Colony area, reports our correspondent in the district.

The neighbours thought he was a thief and tortured him, said Mosharrar Hossain, the officer-in-charge of Kusthia Police Station.

Officers recovered his body from the house of a local named Hakim yesterday morning.

Police arrested Hakim, his wife, and daughter after Surman's wife filed a case.

BNP men

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Mohammad Harun, son of Abdul Gani Majhi, said. "We've known Nurul Absar for a long time. He was invited to my sister's wedding recently but could not attend due to illness. So he came to visit her on Wednesday. He was still unwell. He wanted to leave on Friday."

Ramu Police Station OC Imon Kanti Chowdhury said Nurul Absar is now in police custody. "We are checking whether there is any case against him with Rangunia Police Station or elsewhere. Otherwise, he will be handed over to his family."

1cr new jobs

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reduce excessive tax pressures on citizens and remove the psychological barriers that discourage people from paying taxes.

To make Bangladesh more attractive to foreign investors, the BNP has proposed 11 regulatory reforms.

Mirza Fakhrul mentioned eight of them in his post: making Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) more effective, modernising visa and work permit regulations, introducing 24/7 services for investors, enabling automated profit repatriation, ensuring the

Arrest warrants issued for Hasina, Putul

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The ACC filed six separate cases over alleged irregularities in the allocation of the six plots, each measuring 10 kathas, in the diplomatic zone of Sector 27 in the Purbachal New Town project.

The case against Hasina, Putul and 16 others were filed with the ACC's Dhaka Integrated District Office on January 12.

According to the case statement, Putul, the prime accused, concealed information about her and her family's ownership of the housing or apartments within the jurisdiction of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

The 16 others accused in the

People asking

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repatriation of criminals. She might be brought back under this agreement. However, there is no possibility of a conflict with India."

He added, "Those involved in criminal activities are being brought under the law. In the future, if anyone engages in such activities, they also will face legal action. Some of our firearms were looted. We are continuing efforts to recover them. The situation will improve further once these are recovered. Locals also need to cooperate in this regard."

Earlier, the adviser said that police officers no longer fear mob violence as they once did. "The situation has significantly improved," he said while speaking to reporters at the Airport

availability of skilled local workers, passing laws to ensure investor protection alongside infrastructure development, improving human resource efficiency, and expanding the scope of overseas employment through proper training and incentives.

Meanwhile, BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said that if BNP is elected it would go for serious deregulation and liberalisation to accelerate economic growth through investment promotion.

"We want to bring radical changes

case are Saiful Islam Sarkar, administrative officer; Purabi Golder, senior assistant secretary; Kazi Wasi Uddin, additional secretary (administration); and Shahid Ullah Khandaker, secretary of housing and public works ministry; and Rajuk officials Anisur Rahman Mia, former chairman; Md Khurshid Alam, member (estate and land); Kabir Al Asad, member (administration and finance); Tanmoy Das, member (development and control); Md Nasir Uddin, former member (planning); Major (ret'd) Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, former member (development); Md Hafizur Rahman, deputy director (estate and land 3); Md Habibur Rahman, deputy director

through simplification of everything so that the obstacles and adversities the investors face in Bangladesh would be no more," he said.

The BNP leader said this at a views-exchange with guests for the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025. BNP arranged the event at Hotel Sarina in the city's Banani area to raise the party's future investment policy, reports UNB.

Khasru, formerly a commerce minister under the BNP, said his party has already made a plan for the future economy, which is reflected in its Vision 2030 and the 31-Point State Overhauling Outline.

(estate and land 3); Sheikh Shahinul Islam, director (estate and land 2); and Md Nurul Islam, member (estate and land); Mohammad Salahuddin, former personal secretary to the ousted prime minister; and Sharif Ahmed, former state minister for housing and public works.

The ACC also pressed charges in the five other graft cases involving the allocation of the plots.

Joy, Rehana and her children Tulip Siddiq, Radwan Mujib and Azmina were made accused in the charge sheets of these cases.

The court is scheduled to take cognisance of the charges in three of the cases on April 13 and two others on April 15.

logistics. Many of their cars were burnt, and even police stations were torched. Due to a lengthy fund allocation process, we haven't been able to provide them with new vehicles yet."

Meanwhile, upon arriving at the Airport Police Station in Sylhet, the adviser expressed displeasure at the red carpet rolled out for him and a makeshift stage prepared for his welcome.

Refusing to step on the carpet, he instead greeted on-duty police personnel with handshakes.

Jahangir immediately instructed Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Rezaul Karim to remove the carpet. "I told you not to do this, so why is it still here? Get rid of it now."

ICT seeks Interpol

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for Liberation War affairs; Hasan Mahmud, former foreign minister; and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, ex-textiles and jute minister.

The others are Mohammad A Arafat, ex-state minister for information; Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, former Dhaka South City Corporation mayor and ex-AL MP; Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former defence and security adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina; Nasrul Hamid Bipu, ex-state minister for power, energy, and mineral resources; and Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, former education minister.

ICT's request seeks international assistance in locating and facilitating the extradition of the accused, several of whom are believed to be residing abroad.

On November 10 last year, the ICT chief prosecutor sought an Interpol red notice against Hasina.

A red notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action, according to the Interpol website.

AYNAGHAR, BOMBS

The chief prosecutor revealed that a massive secret detention centre, known as "Aynaghar", was discovered in Uttara following a victim's release in August last year after eight years in captivity.

Based on information from multiple survivors of enforced disappearances, a map was drawn, leading investigators

to uncover hidden cells and torture chambers at the centre in the capital's Uttara, he added.

Tajul added that the cells and soundproof torture chambers were concealed by erecting walls and filling garbage, and it took several weeks to fully uncover.

He said that during the search, five live bombs connected with a wire and a timer were discovered in a bucket filled with waste like cotton and bandages. The area was immediately sealed, and the bomb disposal unit safely defused the explosives one after another after disconnecting them from the wire on January 27.

A total of 27-29 secret cells were found, including seven as small as 3x3 feet. Over 900 people are believed to have been detained there; many have returned, while others remain missing.

The authorities kept the discovery under wraps initially due to security concerns ahead of a visit by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. The area was later declared safe following extensive scans and security clearance.

"We documented everything but stayed silent to avoid hampering the investigation. We also filed a general diary in this regard," Tajul said.

"There is something more that I don't wish to share with you. I asked the law enforcers who were on duty there how the bombs came to be there. They said that they unaware of it," Tajul said.

"An expert said that if all five had gone off simultaneously, the building could have been destroyed. Our prosecutors were traumatised."

Paramilitary strike in Sudan's Darfur kills 12

AFP, Khartoum

A strike by paramilitaries on El-Fasher, the last city in Sudan's Darfur region not under their control, has killed at least 12 people, both the army and local activists said.

The deaths are the latest among tens of thousands killed during nearly two years of war between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and Sudan's army.

They came on Wednesday, the same day Saudi Arabia and the United States called for the warring sides to resume peace talks.

"The militia bombarded the city of

El-Fasher with heavy artillery, killing 12 people and wounding 17," the army's Sixth Infantry Division in El-Fasher said Wednesday.

The local resistance committee, a volunteer aid group, gave the same toll of 12 dead and 17 wounded for Wednesday's attack.

Sudan's war has killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted more than 12 million.

Famine has been declared in parts of the country, including displacement camps around El-Fasher, and was likely to spread, according to a UN-backed assessment.